

# The Gospel According to Matthew

*A Year (and a Half) In Review*

August 29, 2021

## Matthew 8v28-34

28 When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes,[e] two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. 29 Suddenly they shouted, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" 30 Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. 31 The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." 32 And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. 33 The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. 34 Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

What if this cultural moment is only a crisis if we ignore God's calls for renewal?

Seasons change and old ideas die hard.

Richard Rohr and  
"Initiation Rituals of Primal People"

"What if Christianity isn't for Christians, it's for the world?"

1. Life is hard.
2. You're going to die.
3. Life isn't about you.

What about intelligent evil?

Why did Jesus lead the disciples to the other side? What's the role of their faith in the world?

Light of the world...salt of the earth...

Who did you lose in the last 18 months?

What did you lose in the last 18 months? What beliefs, ideas, values, etc.?

Conservative Christianity

Progressive Christianity

What have we gained?

2. How do we retain our commitment to serving others, especially our community?

1. How do we retain our commitment to hospitality?

3. What's the value of Sunday gatherings?

5. How do we serve students more effectively?

4. What's the value of following Jesus in community?

6. How do we lean into spiritual practices?

What's the story you're trying to live within?

Before you roll into September and a new year, what's the value of taking some time to note what you've lost and what you've gained?

**Podcasts:** *Bridgetown Audio Podcast*: 607. Part 6: A Community of Peacemakers in a Culture of Political Polarization; *The Word on Fire show*: WOF 296: *The Fading of Forgiveness*

**Looking to Connect?:** One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page. You can schedule from there.

**Meet with a Pastor, Therapist or Spiritual Director ?:** Email [info@narratechurch.org](mailto:info@narratechurch.org) and we will schedule a meeting or help you get connected with a therapists or spiritual directors.